Chapter 2: Friendship

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Exercise 2.1 — Let us discuss (Part I) — The Unlikely Best Friends

Q1 What things did Gajaraj and Buntee do together?

SOLUTION

Gajaraj and Buntee spent a lot of time together doing different things.

They went to the elephant pond together, where Gajaraj bathed and playfully splashed water on Buntee with his trunk. They also played together — Gajaraj picked Buntee up with his trunk and placed him on his back, giving him a ride.

Answer: They went to the pond together, played in the water (Gajaraj splashed Buntee), and Gajaraj gave Buntee a ride on his back.

Q2 Why did the farmer hug Buntee?

SOLUTION

The farmer hugged Buntee because Buntee was his lost dog.

Buntee had wandered away from the farmer's home and the farmer had been searching for him. When he saw Buntee near the stable, he was very glad and

relieved to find his dog again.

Answer: The farmer hugged Buntee because Buntee was his pet dog who had been missing, and the farmer was very happy and relieved to find him.

Q3 Do you think Buntee will leave Gajaraj and go home with the farmer?

SOLUTION

Based on the story so far, Buntee has become very close to Gajaraj and they are true friends.

Buntee may feel torn between his owner (the farmer) and his new friend (Gajaraj). However, since the farmer is pulling the rope, Buntee will likely be taken home, even though it will be painful for both him and Gajaraj.

Answer: Buntee will likely go home with the farmer because the farmer put a rope around his neck. But it will be very hard for Buntee to leave his friend Gajaraj.

Exercise 2.2 — Let us discuss (Part II) — The Unlikely Best Friends

Q1 Why did Gajaraj not eat his food?

SOLUTION

Gajaraj did not eat his food because he was very sad and missed his friend Buntee.

When Buntee was taken away by the farmer, Gajaraj was heartbroken. He left his favourite food untouched for two days because the sadness of losing his friend took away his appetite.

Answer: Gajaraj did not eat because he was deeply sad and missing his friend Buntee, who had been taken away by the farmer.

Q2 Who were friends at the end of the story?

SOLUTION

At the end of the story, there were two pairs of friends.

First, Gajaraj and Buntee were reunited and remained best friends. Second, the mahout and the farmer became friends too — the mahout hugged the farmer and said that just as Gajaraj had found a friend in Buntee, he had also found a friend in the farmer.

Answer: At the end, Gajaraj and Buntee were friends, and the mahout and the farmer also became friends.

Exercise 2.3 — Let us think and reflect — The Unlikely Best Friends

Q1 Read the passage: 'In spite of royal comforts, Gajaraj was sad because he had no friends. The mahout, or elephant trainer, was the only one he ever interacted with. The mahout was a kind man who served Gajaraj food, and gave him a bath in the elephant pond daily. He was a good caretaker, but not a friend.'
(i) Complete with one word: mahout : kind : : Gajaraj : _____
(ii) The mahout was a good caretaker because he gave _____ to Gajaraj and a _____ in the pond.
(iii) What do you think is the difference between a friend and a caretaker?

SOLUTION

(i) mahout : kind : : Gajaraj : sad

(ii) The mahout was a good caretaker because he gave food to Gajaraj and a bath in the pond.

(iii) A caretaker looks after your needs — giving food, shelter, and care. A friend is someone you play with, have fun with, and share feelings with. A caretaker may be kind, but a friend gives happiness and company.

Answer: (i) sad (ii) food; bath (iii) A caretaker looks after your needs, while a friend gives you happiness, company, and someone to play with.

Q2 Read the passage: '"Are you missing your friend?" asked the farmer remembering the happy look on Buntee's face while sitting on the elephant's back. "I cannot see you go hungry," said the farmer, "If you miss your friend so much, go to him." The farmer removed the rope with which he had tied the dog.'
(i) The farmer uses the word _____ to refer to the elephant.
(ii) How did the farmer know that Buntee was hungry?
(iii) Why did the farmer remove the rope with which he had tied Buntee?
(iv) Complete with one word: Gajaraj : Buntee : : _____ : farmer

SOLUTION

(i) The farmer uses the word 'friend' to refer to the elephant.

(ii) The farmer knew Buntee was hungry because Buntee had not touched his food ever since he was brought home.

(iii) The farmer removed the rope because he cared about Buntee and could not bear to see him go hungry. He understood that Buntee was missing Gajaraj and

decided to set him free to go back to his friend.

(iv) Gajaraj : Buntee : : mahout : farmer

Answer: (i) friend (ii) Buntee had not touched his food at home. (iii) He could not see Buntee go hungry, so he set him free to return to Gajaraj. (iv) mahout

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Q3 Give two examples to show that Gajaraj was very happy to have a friend.

SOLUTION

Two examples showing Gajaraj was very happy to have a friend:

1. When Buntee went with Gajaraj to the pond, Gajaraj playfully splashed water on him with his trunk, showing he was enjoying himself.

2. When Buntee returned to the stable after being away, Gajaraj picked him up with his trunk and gave him a joyous swing — a sign of great happiness.

Answer: 1. Gajaraj playfully splashed water on Buntee at the pond. 2. When Buntee returned, Gajaraj picked him up and gave him a joyous swing.

Q4 How did the mahout come to know that Gajaraj was sad?

SOLUTION

The mahout came to know Gajaraj was sad because Gajaraj stopped eating his food.

Even when the mahout served Gajaraj his favourite food, the elephant left it untouched for two days. The mahout checked Gajaraj's tummy and found nothing physically wrong. He then wondered if Gajaraj was missing his friend, the dog.

Answer: The mahout noticed that Gajaraj left his favourite food untouched for two days. Finding no physical illness, the mahout guessed Gajaraj was sad and missing Buntee.

Q5 Why do you think Buntee licked the farmer's hand?

SOLUTION

Buntee licked the farmer's hand as a way of saying thank you.

The farmer had been kind enough to remove the rope and set Buntee free to go back to Gajaraj. By licking his hand, Buntee showed love and gratitude to the

farmer before running to the stable.

Answer: Buntee licked the farmer's hand to thank him and show love before running back to Gajaraj. It was his way of saying goodbye and expressing gratitude.

Q6 What was 'unlikely' about the friendship of Gajaraj and Buntee?

SOLUTION

The friendship was 'unlikely' because Gajaraj was a large, royal elephant and Buntee was a small stray dog — two very different animals who would not normally be expected to be friends.

They were different in size, species, and background. Yet they formed a deep and caring bond. This made their friendship surprising and special.

Answer: It was unlikely because Gajaraj was a large royal elephant and Buntee was a small stray dog. Two such different animals becoming best friends was surprising and unexpected.

Exercise 2.4 — Let us learn — The Unlikely Best Friends

Q1 Opposites can be formed by adding prefixes like un-, in-, dis-, mis- before a word. From the story 'The Unlikely Best Friends', find the opposites of the following words using such prefixes: kind (unkind), appeared (disappeared), sad (delighted/filled with joy), touched (untouched), liked (disliked), missing (found/present).

SOLUTION

Opposites using prefixes (all words are from the story):

Across clues: 3. unkind → kind; 7. yelped → silent/quiet; 8. awake → asleep; 9. relieved → worried; 10. missing → found

Down clues: 1. started → strayed (wandered); 2. appeared → disappeared; 4. sad → delighted; 5. untouched → touched; 6. hate → liked

Prefix opposites from the story: un- (untouched → touched, unlikely → likely), in- (indigestion), dis- (disappeared → appeared).

Answer: From the story — opposite pairs using prefixes: un- (untouched/touched, unlikely/likely), dis- (disappeared/appeared). Other pairs: kind/unkind, sad/delighted, awake/asleep, relieved/worried, missing/found.

Exercise 2.5 — Let us think and reflect — A Friend's Prayer

Q1 Complete the summary of the poem by choosing the correct highlighted words:
The poet says a prayer for/speech on friendship and friends. She wants that friendship should always be an important part of her complete life/school days. She says that her friendship makes her feel brave/special. She wishes to do the best she can, for her friends. She wants to clap for/listen to the wishes of her friends. As a good friend, she prays/imagines that she is able to make her friends' wishes come true. She wants her heart/mind to understand what a true friend is. She prays that she loves her friends as they are/when they are happy. She tells us that true/correct friends accept their friends for all their qualities.

SOLUTION

Correct choices:

The poet says a **prayer for** friendship and friends. She wants that friendship should always be an important part of her **complete life**. She says that her friendship makes her feel **special**. She wishes to do the best she can for her friends. She wants to **listen to** the wishes of her friends. As a good friend, she **prays** that she is able to make her friends' wishes come true. She wants her **heart** to understand what a true friend is. She prays that she loves her friends **as they are**. She tells us that **true** friends accept their friends for all their qualities.

Answer: prayer for; complete life; special; listen to; prays; heart; as they are; true.

Q2 Answer in one word only.
1. How does the poet feel about special friends?
2. What does the poet use to realise what friends can be?

SOLUTION

1. The poet feels blessed (about special friends).
2. The poet uses her heart to realise what friends can be.

Answer: 1. Blessed 2. Heart

Q3 Read the lines: 'I want to do much more than share / The hopes and plans of friends who care; / I'll try all that a friend can do / To make their wishes come true.'
(i) Complete the sentence: These lines tell us that the speaker is ___. (A. clever B. caring C. curious D. calm)
(ii) How will the speaker make her friends' wishes come true? (by trying hard / by working a lot)
(iii) Fill in the blank: My friends will feel _____ if their wishes come true.

SOLUTION

(i) B. caring — the speaker wants to do more than just share hopes; she wants to actively make her friends' wishes come true.

(ii) The speaker will make her friends' wishes come true by trying hard — 'I'll try all that a friend can do.'

(iii) My friends will feel happy (or fulfilled/delighted) if their wishes come true.

Answer: (i) B. caring (ii) by trying hard (iii) happy

Q4 Read the lines: 'Let me use my heart to see, / To realise what friends can be, / And make no judgements from afar, / But love my friends the way they are.'
(i) Which line tells us that feelings are important to understand friendship?
(ii) Complete the sentence: These lines tell us that the speaker is ___. (A. helpful B. thoughtful C. cheerful D. hopeful)
(iii) Fill in the blank with one word: The speaker does not wish to make any _____. She cares for them just as they are.

SOLUTION

(i) The line 'Let me use my heart to see' tells us that feelings are important to understand friendship.

(ii) B. thoughtful — the speaker thinks deeply about friendship, understanding friends without judging them.

(iii) The speaker does not wish to make any judgements. She cares for them just as they are.

Answer: (i) 'Let me use my heart to see' (ii) B. thoughtful (iii) judgements

Q5 Give one reason why we can say that this poem is a prayer.

SOLUTION

We can say this poem is a prayer because the speaker uses words like 'May', 'Let me', and 'I pray' — these are the language of wishes and prayers. She is asking or hoping for good things for her friends and for herself to be a better friend, just as one would ask in a prayer.

Answer: The poem is a prayer because the speaker uses prayer-like language such as 'May my friendships always be' and 'Let me use my heart to see' — she is wishing and asking for good things, which is the nature of a prayer.

Q6 Why does the speaker 'want to do more' for her friend?

SOLUTION

The speaker wants to do more for her friend because she values friendship deeply and wants to be the best friend she can be.

She does not want to just share hopes and plans — she wants to actively try to make her friends' wishes come true. This shows she is caring and willing to put in effort for her friends.

Answer: The speaker wants to do more because she cares deeply about her friends and wants to go beyond just sharing — she wants to actively try to make her friends' wishes come true.

Q7 Do you think the speaker knows about the wishes of her friend? How can we say so?

SOLUTION

Yes, the speaker seems to know about the wishes of her friend.

We can say so because she says 'I want to do much more than share / The hopes and plans of friends who care.' The word 'share' suggests she already listens to and knows her friends' hopes and plans. She then wants to go further and make those wishes come true.

Answer: Yes. The speaker says she wants to 'share the hopes and plans of friends' — the word 'share' shows she already listens to and knows her friends' wishes, and she wants to help make them come true.

Exercise 2.6 — Let us learn — A Friend's Prayer

Q1 The poet says, 'With special friends I feel I'm blessed.' Select the words that are similar in meaning to 'blessed' from: excited, grateful, understood, thankful, relaxed.

SOLUTION

The words similar in meaning to 'blessed' are: grateful and thankful.

When you feel blessed, you feel grateful and thankful for the good things you have — in this case, special friends. 'Excited', 'understood', and 'relaxed' do not carry the same meaning.

Answer: grateful and thankful

Exercise 2.7 — Let us explore — A Friend's Prayer

Q1 Read the quotations: (a) 'A friend in need is a friend indeed.' (b) 'My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me.' What do you think is the meaning of these quotations?

SOLUTION

(a) 'A friend in need is a friend indeed' means that a true friend is someone who helps you when you are in trouble or need help — not just when things are good. Such a friend proves their friendship through action.

(b) 'My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me' means that a best friend encourages you, supports you, and helps you become a better person. They bring out your good qualities.

Answer: (a) A true friend is one who helps you when you are in difficulty. (b) A best friend is someone who encourages you and helps you show your best qualities.

Exercise 2.8 — Let us discuss (Part I) — The Chair

Q1 Mario was very proud of having so many friends. State whether True or False.

SOLUTION

True. Mario loved to have lots of friends and showed off a lot, always talking about how many friends he had at school and how friendly he was with everyone.

Answer: True. Mario showed off about having many friends.

Q2 What did the grandfather take from the attic?

SOLUTION

The grandfather went to the attic and came back pretending to carry something in his hand, but there was nothing there — it was an invisible chair. He gave Mario this 'magic invisible chair' and told him that if he managed to sit on it at school, the magic would help him find out who his real friends were.

Answer: The grandfather took an invisible (imaginary) chair from the attic — a pretend magic chair that he said would help Mario find out who his real friends were.

Q3 Will Mario face any challenges?

SOLUTION

Yes, Mario will face challenges. The chair is invisible, which means it is very tricky to sit on it — you cannot see it, so you might miss it and fall. Mario will have to try sitting on something he cannot see, which will be very difficult and might make him look foolish in front of his classmates.

Answer: Yes. Since the chair is invisible, Mario will find it very hard to sit on it without seeing it. He may fall and look foolish in front of his classmates.

Q4 Will Mario be able to use the magic?

SOLUTION

Yes, Mario will eventually be able to use the magic, but only with the help of his true friends. The magic is not about the chair itself — it is about discovering who cares for you. The friends who help Mario sit on the chair (by holding him up) will reveal themselves as his true friends.

Answer: Yes. Mario will eventually 'sit' on the chair when his true friends hold him up. The magic lies in revealing who his real friends are — those who help him rather than laugh at him.

Exercise 2.9 — Let us discuss (Part II) — The Chair

Q1 Mario successfully sat on the invisible chair on his first attempt. State whether True or False.

SOLUTION

False. Mario tried many times and kept falling to the ground. He only managed to 'sit' on the chair after several attempts when Guneet, Asma, and Deepa — his three real friends — held him up so he would not fall.

Answer: False. Mario fell many times before finally 'sitting' — only because his three friends, Guneet, Asma, and Deepa, held him up.

Q2 Fill in the blank with a suitable word: Mario's grandfather challenged him to a bet of _____.

SOLUTION

Mario's grandfather challenged him to a bet of fruit chaat.

Answer: fruit chaat

Q3 Match the following characters with their action:
Guneet, Asma and Deepa — (i) held Mario up, so he wouldn't fall (ii) made fun of Mario's attempts
Many other classmates — (i) held Mario up, so he wouldn't fall (ii) made fun of Mario's attempts

SOLUTION

Guneet, Asma and Deepa — (i) held Mario up, so he wouldn't fall.

Many other classmates — (ii) made fun of Mario's attempts.

Answer: Guneet, Asma and Deepa → held Mario up. Many other classmates → made fun of Mario's attempts.

Exercise 2.10 — Let us think and reflect — The Chair

Q1 Read: 'Take it. It's a very special chair. As it's invisible, it's rather tricky to sit on it. But if you take it to school and manage to sit on it, then the magic will work and you'll be able to tell who your real friends are.'
(i) Fill in the blanks with two words that describe the chair: The chair is _____ and _____.
(ii) Why was it tricky to sit on the chair?
(iii) Why does Mario's grandfather call the chair 'special'?

SOLUTION

(i) The chair is special and invisible.

(ii) It was tricky to sit on the chair because it was invisible — Mario could not see it, so he could not know exactly where to sit.

(iii) Mario's grandfather calls the chair 'special' because it has magic — if Mario manages to sit on it at school, the chair will help him find out who his real friends are.

Answer: (i) special and invisible (ii) It was invisible, so Mario could not see where to sit. (iii) Because it has the magic to reveal who Mario's real friends are.

Q2 Read: '"Wait, wait, just a slight technical problem," he said, trying again. But again, he missed the seat, causing more surprised looks and laughter. Mario wouldn't give up.'
(i) Fill in the blank: Mario says there was a technical problem because _____.
(ii) Mario's friends were very caring and helpful. State whether True or False.
(iii) Choose the correct option: Mario wouldn't give up. This shows he is _____. a. strong-willed B. supportive C. loving D. hard-working

SOLUTION

(i) Mario says there was a technical problem because he missed the invisible chair and fell — he did not want to admit he had simply failed, so he said it was a 'technical problem'.

(ii) False. At this point, many of his classmates who he thought were friends did nothing but laugh at him. Only Guneet, Asma, and Deepa turned out to be truly caring.

(iii) a. strong-willed — Mario kept trying again and again without giving up, which

shows he had a strong will and determination.

Answer: (i) he missed the invisible chair and fell, but did not want to admit failure. (ii) False — most classmates laughed; only three were truly caring. (iii) a. strong-willed

Q3 What was the bet about?

SOLUTION

The bet was between Mario and his grandfather about how many real friends Mario had. Mario's grandfather said that Mario did not have as many true friends as he thought — many were just companions or partners. Mario bet a fruit chaat that he did have many real friends. The grandfather used the invisible chair as a clever way to settle the bet.

Answer: The bet was about whether Mario had as many true friends as he thought. His grandfather said many were just companions, not real friends. The prize was fruit chaat.

Q4 What happened when Mario sat on the chair for the first time?

SOLUTION

When Mario tried to sit on the invisible chair for the first time, he could not see it and missed the seat. He fell straight onto his backside. His classmates laughed at him. Mario called it a 'slight technical problem' and kept trying.

Answer: Mario missed the invisible chair and fell onto his backside. His classmates laughed. He called it a 'slight technical problem' and tried again.

Q5 How was Mario able to find his real friends?

SOLUTION

Mario found his real friends through the invisible chair test. When he kept trying to sit and kept falling, his real friends — Guneet, Asma, and Deepa — quietly held him up so he would not fall. The other classmates only laughed.

This showed Mario that his three friends cared for him and helped him in a difficult moment, while the rest only enjoyed his failure.

Answer: Mario found his real friends when Guneet, Asma, and Deepa held him up during the invisible chair test, while the other classmates only made fun of him.

Q6 Do you think the magic chair test was good? Why do you say so?

SOLUTION

Yes, the magic chair test was a good idea because it was a clever way to find out who truly cares for you.

True friends help you when you are struggling, not just when things are easy. The test made this clear without anyone having to say anything — it was shown through actions. Mario could see for himself which friends helped him and which ones laughed.

Answer: Yes, it was a clever test. It showed who cared for Mario through actions — true friends helped him, while others laughed. Actions reveal true friendship better than words.

Q7 What does 'friends for life' mean to you?

SOLUTION

'Friends for life' means friends who stay with you no matter what — through good times and bad, for many years, even for your whole life.

These are people who truly care for you, support you, and never leave you when things get difficult. In the story, those who passed the magic chair test became exactly this kind of friends.

Answer: 'Friends for life' means friends who stay with you through all of life's ups and downs, always caring for and supporting you, not just when things are easy.

Q8 The grandfather's idea helped Mario find his 'real friends'. Mention any other way that would help you find out who your 'real friends' are.

SOLUTION

One way to find real friends is to see who stays by your side when you are in trouble or feeling sad.

For example, if you make a mistake or are going through a hard time, your real friends will support you and help you, while others may walk away or criticize you.

Real friends are also those who are honest with you and do not just say what you want to hear.

Answer: You can find real friends by noticing who supports you during difficult times — who stays when you make a mistake, who is honest with you, and who helps you without expecting anything in return.